

HR 9053

2014

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing July 21-27, 2014, as "Ocean
3 Week" in the State of Florida.
4

5 WHEREAS, in 1963, the United States SeaLab program began as
6 an unassuming scientific project at the Navy Mine Defense
7 Laboratory in Panama City Beach, Florida, and

8 WHEREAS, visionary Dr. George Bond, along with his team
9 members, Dr. Walter Mazzone, aquanauts Robert Barth, Lester
10 Anderson, Sanders Manning, and Dr. Robert Thompson, and Mercury
11 7 Astronaut Scott Carpenter, changed the world of ocean
12 exploration, and

13 WHEREAS, SeaLab I, a prototype sea base, was pieced
14 together in 1964 along Alligator Bayou in Bay County at what was
15 then the Navy Mine Defense Laboratory and is now a division of
16 the Naval Sea Systems Command, and

17 WHEREAS, that initial historic 11-day undersea mission at a
18 depth of 193 feet proved that humans can explore, live, and work
19 at deep ocean depths for extended periods, and

20 WHEREAS, SeaLab I set the stage for the development of
21 SeaLab II, SeaLab III, and a number of similar SeaLab-inspired
22 projects in the United States and around the world, such as the
23 Aquarius Reef Base, a fixture in the Florida Keys National
24 Marine Sanctuary for two decades and the world's only undersea
25 laboratory, and

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26 WHEREAS, the SeaLab program opened a new door to undersea
27 exploration that enabled divers to live and work on the seabed
28 at deeper depths and for much longer periods than ever thought
29 possible, and

30 WHEREAS, since that historic summer in 1964, the SeaLab
31 program has allowed people to gain a better understanding of the
32 vast underwater world, which is still mostly unseen and
33 unexplored, and

34 WHEREAS, the purpose of "Ocean Week" is to celebrate the
35 anniversary of the SeaLab program, to ignite the spirit of
36 exploration, to promote the wonderment of the oceans that
37 remains unknown and encourage its continued exploration, and to
38 recognize the important role that the ocean plays in our lives
39 and remind us that we are the stewards of our ocean world, NOW,
40 THEREFORE,

41
42 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
43 Florida:

44
45 That July 21-27, 2014, is recognized as "Ocean Week" in the
46 State of Florida.